

**LESSON 15: A SPREADING VINE, NO MORE**

**Intro:**

BIG IDEA: Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ will be sent away from God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Israel is a luxuriant vine  
that yields its fruit.  
The more his fruit increased,  
the more altars he built;  
as his country improved,  
he improved his pillars.  
<sup>2</sup> Their heart is false;  
now they must bear their guilt.  
The LORD will break down their altars  
and destroy their pillars.

- The verb tenses make it difficult: present or future \_\_\_\_\_.
- Israel is pictured as a luxuriant, or \_\_\_\_\_ vine that yields much \_\_\_\_\_.
- They were growing in \_\_\_\_\_, power, population, \_\_\_\_\_ etc.
- They were supposed to grow: \_\_\_\_\_ mandate & the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant.
- We aren't sure if "*spreading vine*" or "*barren vine*" as originally given.
- Stuart sees a double-entendre: well-watered, she became \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ increased => an increase in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Country increased => \_\_\_\_\_ or standing stones
- A \_\_\_\_\_ view of religion. Worship => blessing => more worship => more blessing
- God was \_\_\_\_\_ to them, but they have \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Why is prosperity often not a good thing for God's people?

<sup>11</sup> "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. **Deuteronomy 8**

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

“The more God did for them the more they misapplied it.”<sup>102</sup>

- It was ultimately a heart problem. Their hearts were (smooth) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, toward God.
- Called to be “\_\_\_\_\_ hearted” toward God (Deut. 6:5) they were \_\_\_\_\_.
- As a result, they must bear their own guilt. The \_\_\_\_\_ didn’t remove it.
- Their centers of false worship were about to be destroyed by YHWH (using Assyria).
- The word “*break down*” is often used of breaking an animal’s \_\_\_\_\_, not the word used of breaking Canaanite altars in Ex. 34:13; Deut. 7:5; 12:3.
- This likens their destruction to that of \_\_\_\_\_ animals.

“Israelites could enjoy the pleasures of debauchery forbidden by orthodox Yahwism and life selfish, materialistic lives yet think themselves religiously exemplary by reason of faithfulness to the cult.”<sup>103</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For now they will say:

“We have no king,  
for we do not fear the LORD;  
and a king—what could he do for us?”

<sup>4</sup> They utter mere words;  
with empty oaths they make covenants;  
so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds  
in the furrows of the field.

<sup>5</sup> The inhabitants of Samaria tremble  
for the calf of Beth-aven.  
Its people mourn for it, and so do its idolatrous priests—  
those who rejoiced over it and over its glory—  
for it has departed from them.

<sup>6</sup> The thing itself shall be carried to Assyria  
as tribute to the great king.  
Ephraim shall be put to shame,  
and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol.

- This section may be \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_. It bears none of the characteristic marks of \_\_\_\_\_ (Stuart).
- Unclear if this was an \_\_\_\_\_ attempt, or Shalmaneser V \_\_\_\_\_ Hoshea.
- They don’t \_\_\_\_\_ YHWH & any king who serves His interests would be \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>102</sup> Kidner, pp. 92.

<sup>103</sup> Stuart, pp. 159.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- They think their best \_\_\_\_\_ are expressed by their own \_\_\_\_\_, not God's.
- They are living for their own \_\_\_\_\_, not the true, abiding kingdom and King.
- In judgment they think, \_\_\_\_\_, that YHWH has let them \_\_\_\_\_.
- YHWH intended kings to provide leadership, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_ in His name.
- The king provided \_\_\_\_\_ leadership, minimal protection and corrupted \_\_\_\_\_.
- Instead of producing good fruit, they produced \_\_\_\_\_ fruit- destroyed Israel.
- They did \_\_\_\_\_ when the calf of the "house of sin" was removed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- The calf was a symbol of their \_\_\_\_\_, violating the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment.
- They \_\_\_\_\_, as though it was a great loss. Fulfilled a covenant curse (Lev. 26:31; Deut. 28-32).
- This put Ephraim to \_\_\_\_\_, ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ they thought would save them.
- Their \_\_\_\_\_ hearts are revealed in the "empty words" used to make the \_\_\_\_\_.
- In making a \_\_\_\_\_ with Assyria they would invoke YHWH's name while Assyria invoked their gods- \_\_\_\_\_ the rights of YHWH to be Assyria's vassal.

<sup>36</sup> "The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.

### Deuteronomy 28

<sup>7</sup> Samaria's king shall perish

like a twig on the face of the waters.

<sup>8</sup> The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel,  
shall be destroyed.

Thorn and thistle shall grow up  
on their altars,

and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover us,"  
and to the hills, "Fall on us."

- Beth-aven is a \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ is gone. Ephraim is put to shame.
- \_\_\_\_\_ problem: "twig", "wood chips" or "foam" (Dearman)?
- Both are carried away by the water as if \_\_\_\_\_, w/out real \_\_\_\_\_.
- The king is brought to \_\_\_\_\_, swept away by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Places of false worship will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- They will become \_\_\_\_\_ with "thorn and thistle", alluding to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- These \_\_\_\_\_ are placed under a curse. But not just the places but the \_\_\_\_\_.
- They want the \_\_\_\_\_ and hills to fall on them- \_\_\_\_\_ them instantly.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Assyrian judgment => Fall of Jerusalem (Lk 23:30; Rev. 6:16) => 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent?

Conclusion: